

# Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Regionalization Region 2

1

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# Agenda

2

1. Legislative Funding update
2. Background on Challenges to EMS Statewide
3. Discussion questions

# Background - Legislative Direction

3

1. Senate Enrolled Act 20 (former Senate File 66) appropriated federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars for various purposes.
2. Among these were three EMS-related appropriations:
  - a. \$87,000 for establishing **emergency medical dispatch** statewide certification.
  - b. \$5,000,000 for grants to **stabilize** emergency medical services.
  - c. \$10,000,000 for EMS regionalization pilot for the five trauma regions, in order to investigate alternative options for EMS to **improve access and reduce cost**.  
Conditioned upon some local match.

# Background - EMS

4

1. EMS is a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year system that serves as a critical safety net for many Wyomingites.
  - a. In 2021, Wyoming EMS responded to approximately 89,000 requests for service.
  - b. Currently there are 48 WY based ground 911 response transporting EMS Agencies in the state staffing 78 stations.
  - c. Wyoming's EMS systems are operated by hospitals, fire departments, private non-profit, and for-profit corporations.
    - i. Funding mechanisms for EMS are fragmented and diverse.
2. There is a significant difference in services that exist between frontier, rural, and urban communities through the EMS system.

# Service Closures

5

## EMS 911 Transporting Agency Replaced by another Agency

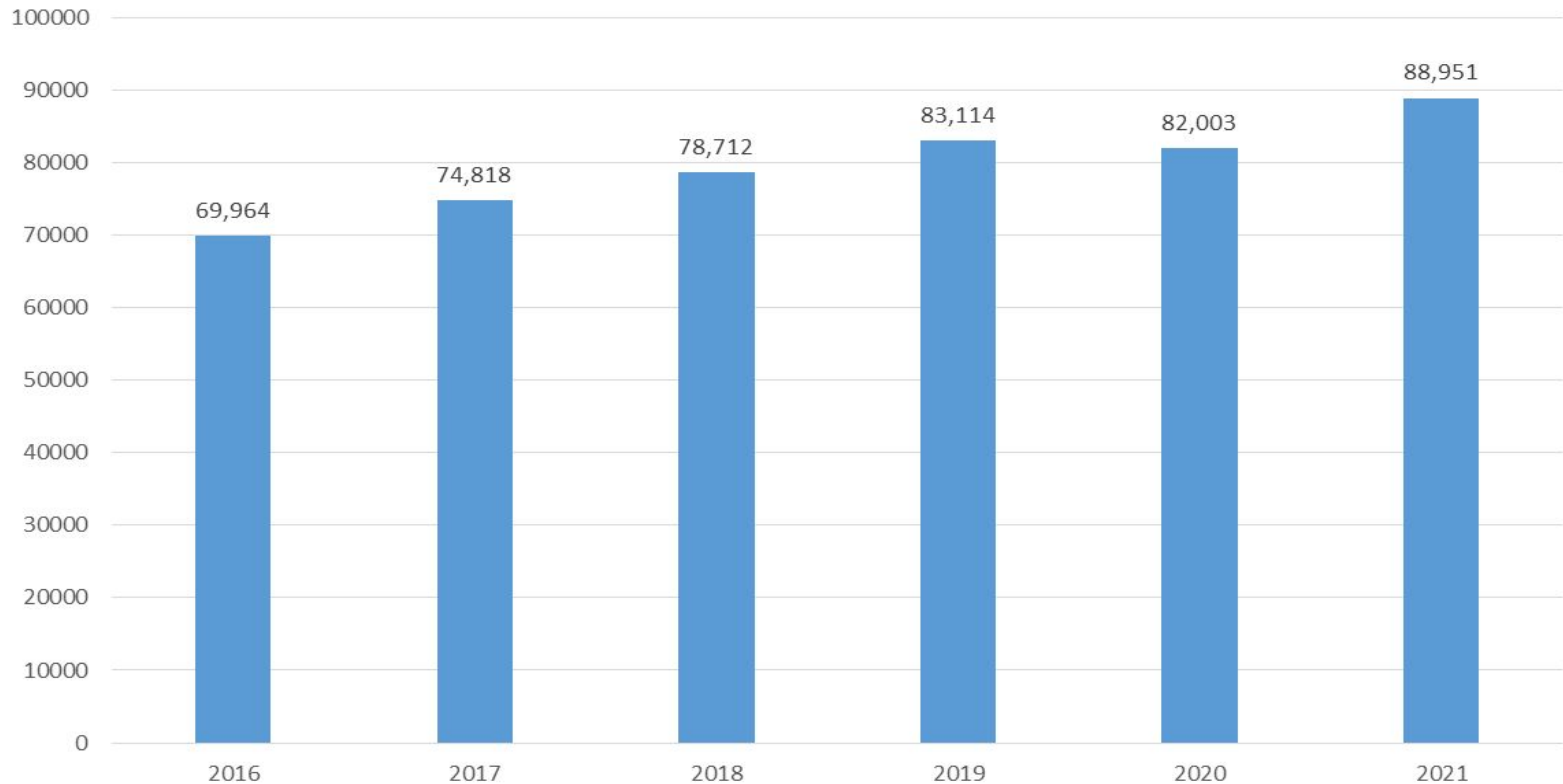
Agency Name	License Expiration Date	Region	New Agency
Eastern Wyoming Ambulance Service	13/31/2015	3	Platte County Memorial Hospital EMS
Fremont County Ambulance	12/31/2016	2	Guardian EMS
Guernsey Ambulance	1/10/2017	3	Platte County Memorial Hospital EMS
Atwood Family Services	12/31/2017	5	Guardian EMS
Guardian EMS	12/31/2018	5	Cody Regional Health
Guardian EMS	12/31/2018	2	American Medical Response Fremont County
Washakie County EMS	5/3/2021	5	Cody Regional Health
American Medical Response Fremont County	6/30/2021	2	Frontier Ambulance
Newcastle Ambulance Service	6/30/2021	1	Campbell County Health EMS
Alpine EMS Inc.	12/31/2021	4	Star Valley Health EMS
Thayne Ambulance Service	12/31/2021	4	Star Valley Health EMS

## EMS Transporting Agencies that Closed

Agency Name	License Expiration Date	Region
Greybull Fire Department	12/16/2005	5
Chugwater EMS	12/31/2015	3
Yoder Ambulance	12/31/2015	3
Burgess Junction Rescue	12/31/2018	1
South Big Horn County Hospital District	12/31/2018	5
Dayton Rescue Unit	7/30/2021	1
Burns EMS	12/31/2021	3
Centennial Fire Department & Rescue	12/31/2021	3
Osage Ambulance Service	12/31/2021	3
White Line, LLC DBA Atwood's Family Ambulance	12/31/2021	5

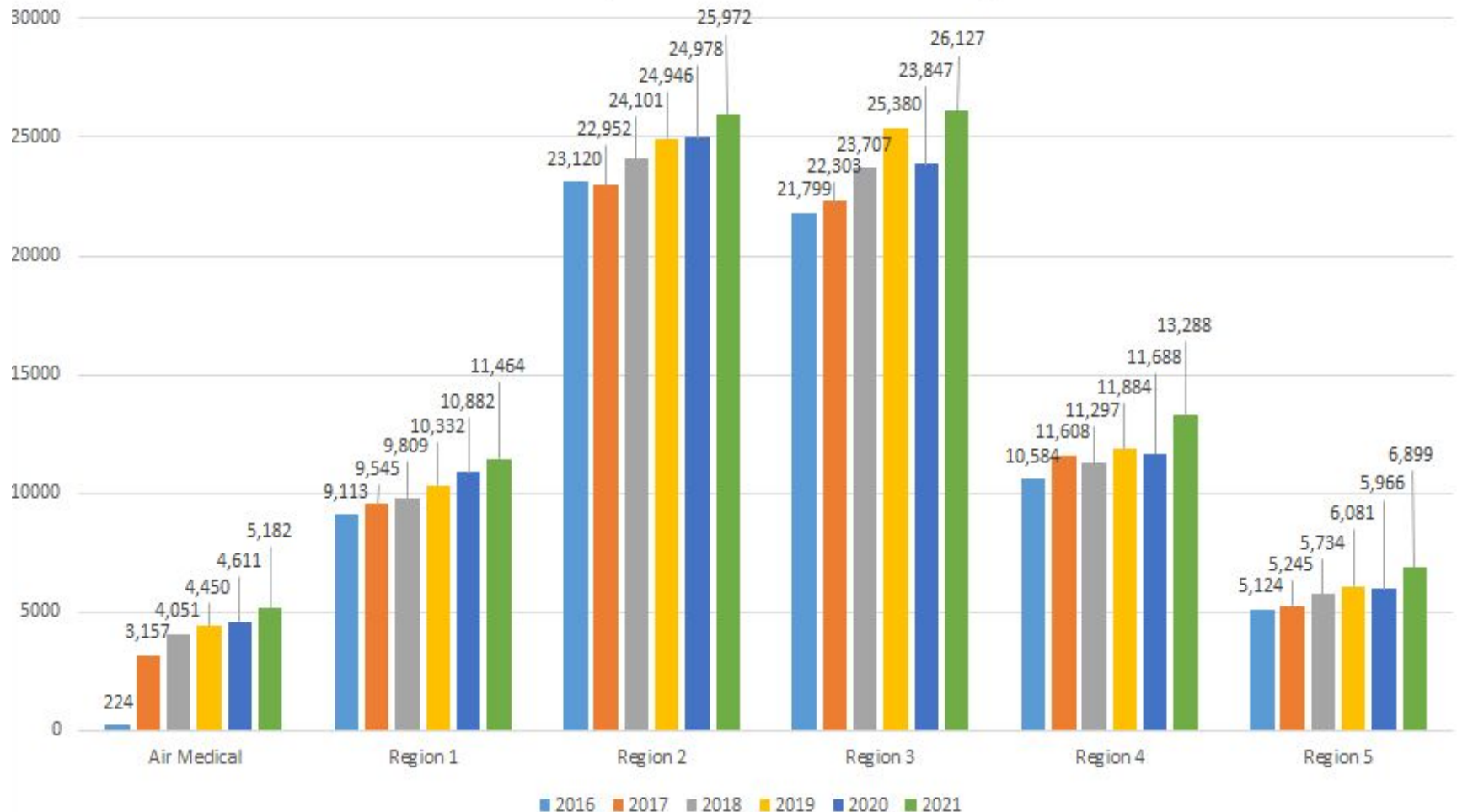
# In the past six (6) years EMS requests for service have increased by 27.1%

EMS Request for Service 2016 through 2021



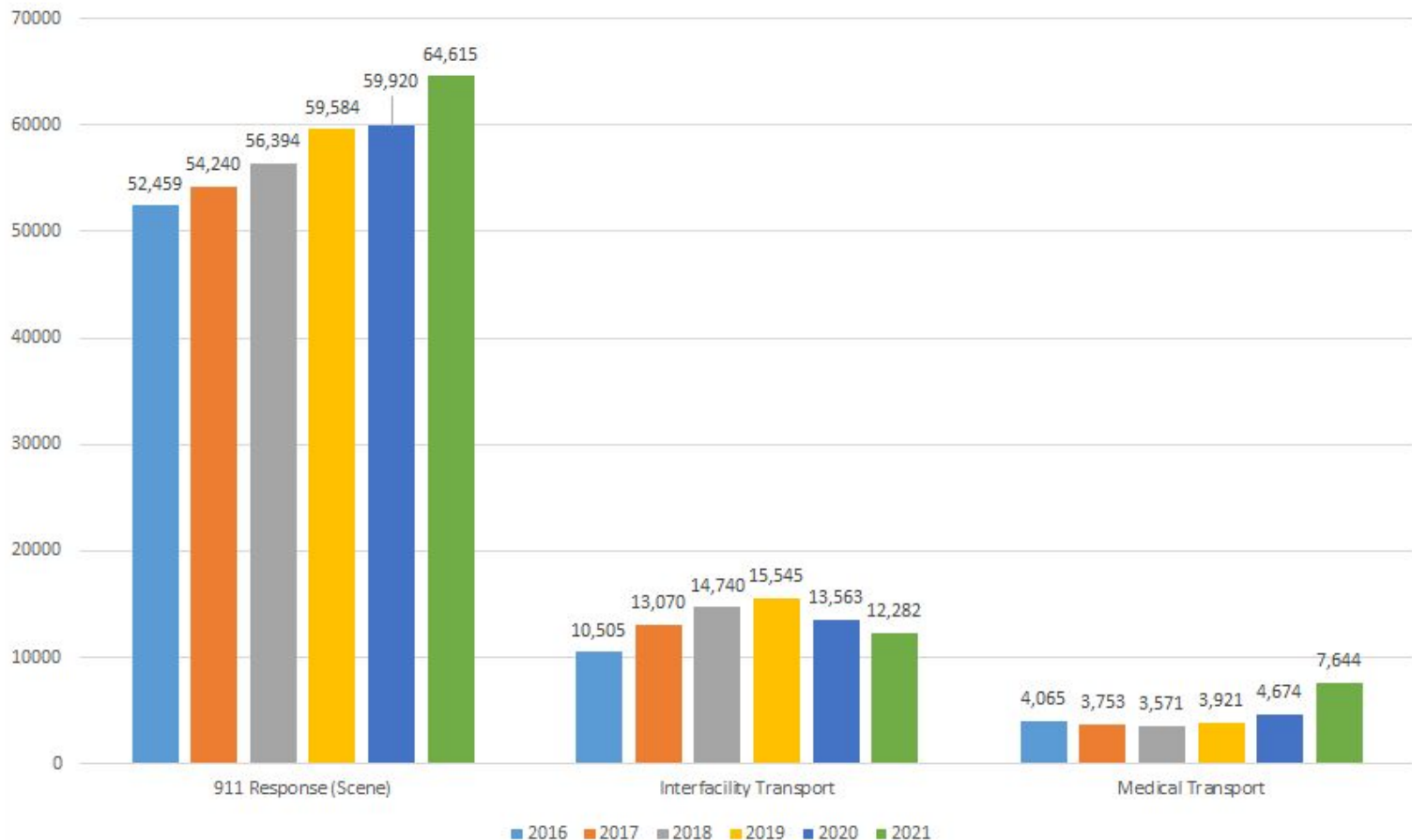
Filters: eTimes.03 is not empty, Negative Chute and Response times removed  
Reporting Date: 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2021. 2016 Air Medical report is limited  
Source: Wyoming Ambulance Trip Reporting System (WATRS)

# Trauma Region 2 has experienced a ~12% increase in total documented service requests



Filters: eTimes.03 is not empty, Negative Chute and Response times removed  
Reporting Date: 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2021 2016 Air Medical report is limited  
Source: Wyoming Ambulance Trip Reporting System (WATRS)

911 responses represent more than 80% of service calls, but ~35% of them do not pay. Most interfacility transports do.



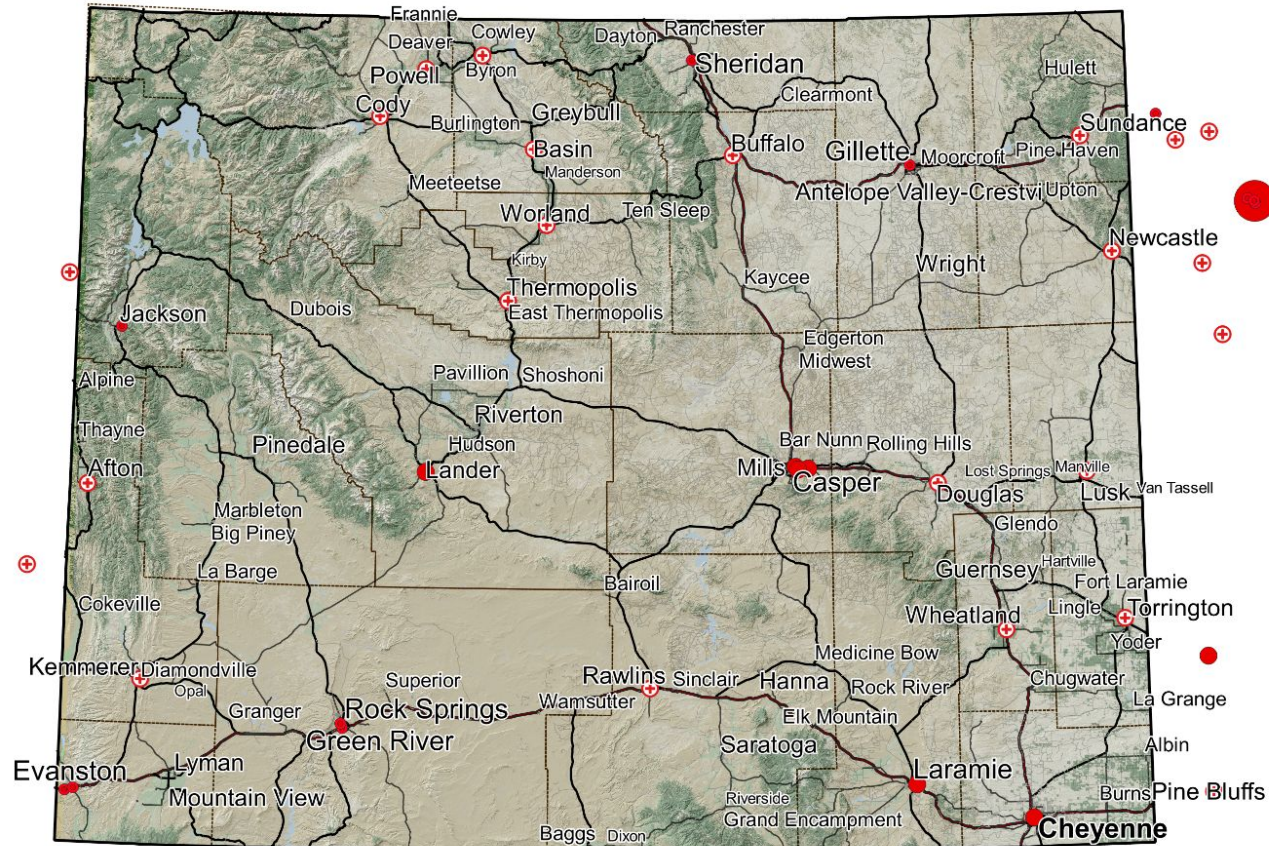
Filters: eTimes.03 is not empty, Negative Chute and Response times removed, Top 3 types of service requested (Not listed: Intercepts, Mutual Aid, Public Assistance, and Standbys which is ~5% of all responses)

Reporting Date: 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2021

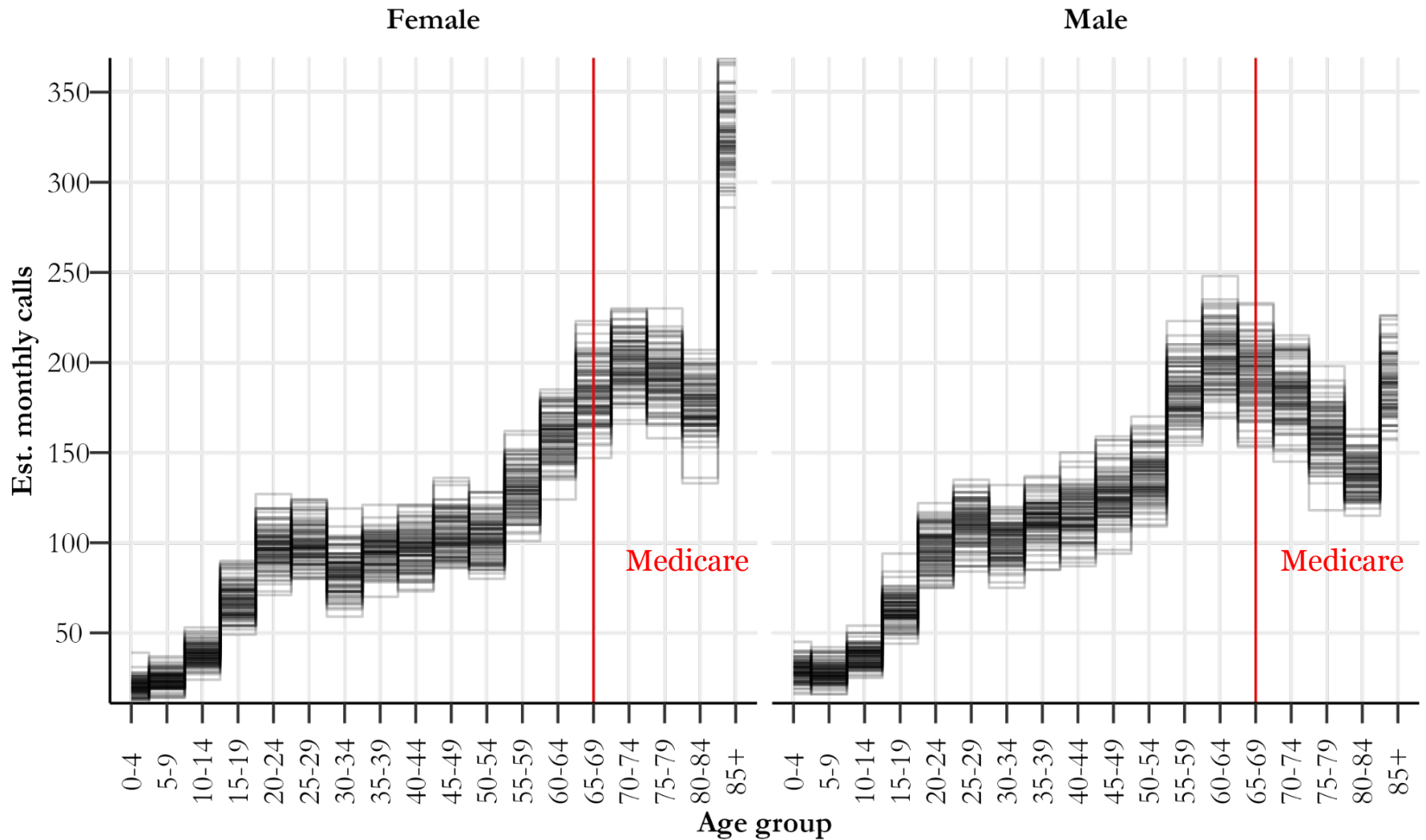
Source: Wyoming Ambulance Trip Reporting System (WATRS)



# Hospitals in and around Wyoming (2019)

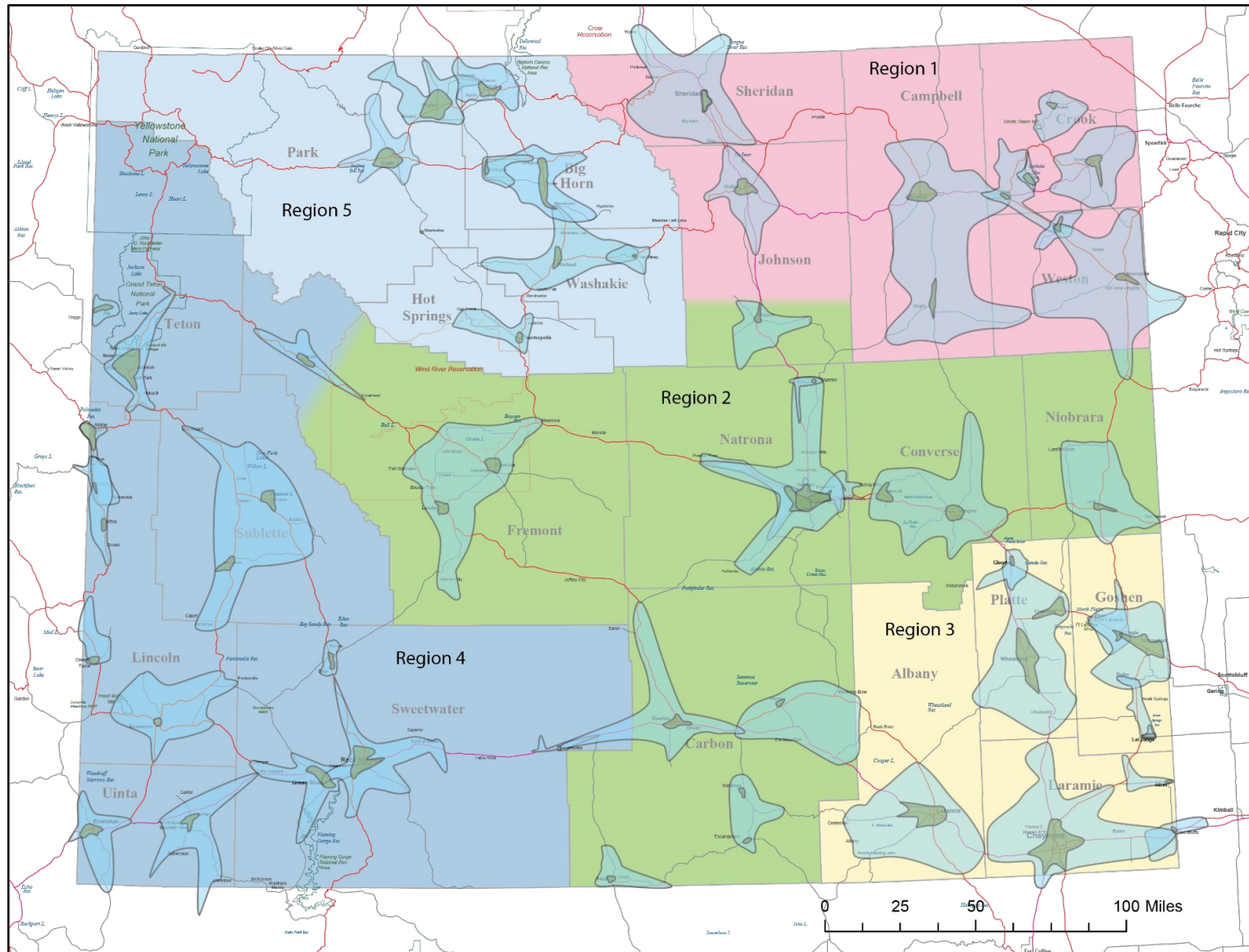


~ 40% of ground EMS calls are for Medicare patients; risk of needing EMS increases with age



# EMS Response Times Overlay (2019)

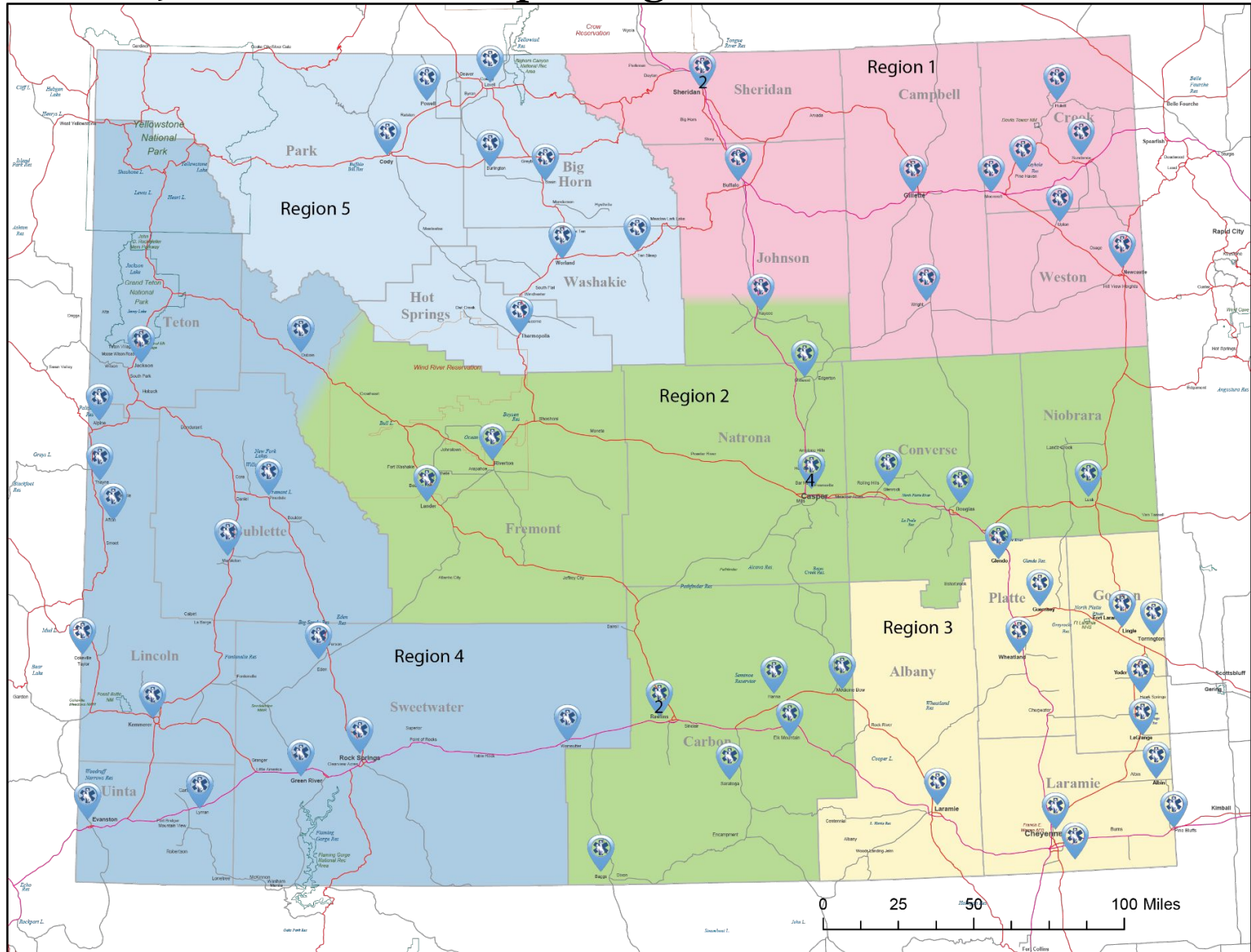
EMS Response Time less than 9 minutes in green and less than 30 minutes in blue



From EMS Notification to Arrival at the Scene - Source Wyoming Ambulance Trip Reporting System (WATRS)



# 911 Ground Transporting EMS Stations (2022)



# Background - EMS

13

1. Challenges to sustainability.
  - a. Nationally, a single BLS ambulance costs \$507,474 annually to operate 24/7.
    - i. More specifically, equipment costs \$70,000. (Reinert, 2021)
    - ii. BLS staffing cost averages \$456,396. (Reinert, 2021)
    - iii. ALS staffing cost averages \$1,100,000. (Reinert, 2021)
  - b. Volunteerism is declining.
    - i. Nationally, first responder agencies have experienced approximately a 27% decrease in volunteers since 1987. (NFPA, 2020)
  - c. Significant increase in advanced level providers.
    - i. IEMT level vs. Paramedic level increases costs.

# Problems we are trying to solve

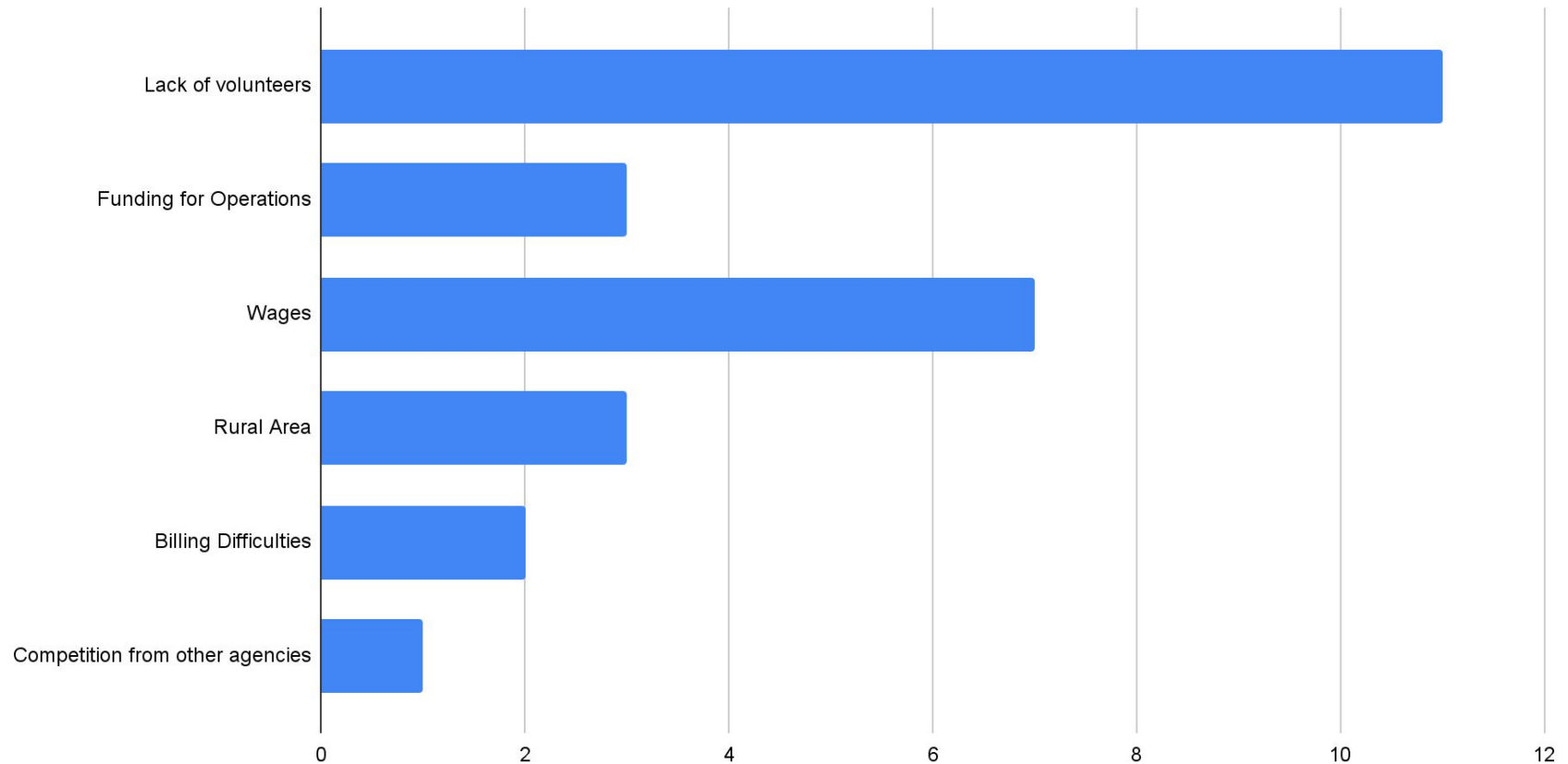
14

## 1. **Access to care in rural settings.**

- a. The smaller the EMS agency, the more difficult it is to sustain operations through revenue.
  - i. EMS agencies have high fixed costs.
    1. Readiness matters.
    2. Must staff for unpredictable and highly variable demand.
  - ii. Smaller population base = fewer calls = less revenue to sustain operations.
  - iii. An increasing shortage of volunteers.

# Challenges to Staffing an EMS Agency

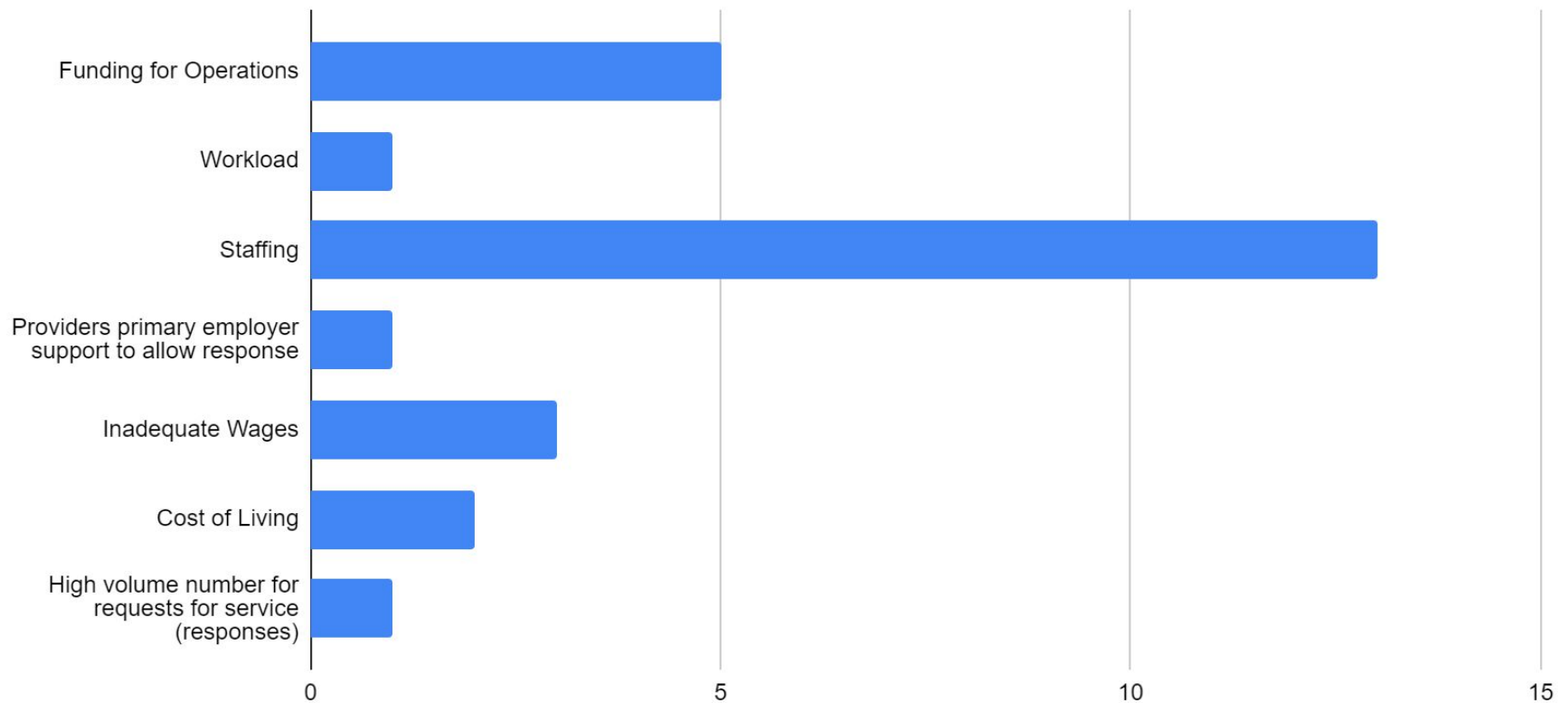
Wyoming EMS Agency Response: Barriers to staffing an Agency



Source: Wyoming Ambulance and Reporting System (WARS)

# Top Challenge to Sustainability

What do you see as barriers to sustainability of emergency medical services in your area?





# For Discussion

17

1. What are the challenges to sustainability your agency is currently facing?
2. What are the strengths of your local agency?
3. What are your expectations surrounding the EMS system
  - a. 911 vs. interfacility
  - b. Access vs quality of care
4. Are you currently experiencing a shortfall in funds?
  - a. How are you currently addressing this issue?
5. What are potential solutions to sustainability?
  - a. Local
  - b. State
  - c. Federal